



Sea, city and island adventure awaits children of deployed parents

MWR hosts unique summer camps for middle school youth and teens

HEIDELBERG, GE—Stress and resiliency take on a deeper meaning when you're a novice crewmember working watch on the deck of a sailing ship the first night at sea. You're challenged to face self-doubts and uncertainty, dig down into the core of who you are, rise to your ability to meet new tasks head-on, and learn the true meaning of teamwork.

And when you're only 15 the experience can be exhilarating and empowering...and the chance of a lifetime to gain confidence, self-reliance, and maturity.

This will be just such an opportunity that select teens from throughout Europe will experience as they face adventure on the open water in the Tall Ship Sailing Program this summer as part of Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge.

Following up on last year's successful program, Installation Management Command-Europe Morale, Welfare and Recreation will again host four summer camp sessions specifically designed to meet the needs of teens and middle-schoolers with one or both active-duty parents deployed.

In addition, one-week day camps in specialty areas such as sports, drama or art will also be offered at selected garrisons for school-age children, middle school youth and teens. CYS day programs for school-age children in grades 1-5 are also available at all garrisons this summer.

Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge—the acronym stands for Adventure, Resilience, Memories, Youth—offers not only the opportunity for a welcome break from the family stresses of deployment, but also a chance to meet other youth facing the same challenges of having a parent deployed. Sessions will include activities to help youth develop strategies to cope with the stresses associated with deployment.

Middle school and high school students in grades 6-12 (during the 2006-2007 school year) whose active-duty Army, Air Force, Navy, or Marine parent deployed between June 1, 2006, and February 28, 2008, are eligible to apply. Although the camp is hosted exclusively by IMCOM-Europe MWR Child and Youth Services, each Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge venue will have four spaces open to other services. Students having just completed 8th grade are considered an 8th grader for camp attendance and may only apply to the middle school camp sessions.

Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge for middle school youth in grades 6-8 will be held July 16-21 in Heidelberg, Germany, and August 6-11 on a German coastal island. The City Adventure session will include cultural awareness programs. The Island Adventure session will feature an environmental awareness program.

The Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge Tall Ship Sailing Program is a hands-on experience designed to challenge high school teens in grades 9-12. Two sessions will be held: July 21-27 and July 27-August 1. In this program, the teens will actually man the ship under the direction of the captain and crew. This participative program offers teens an empowering experience to increase self awareness and self-confidence, acquire new skills, learn to problem solve and communicate, take responsibility for themselves and others, and build positive relationships and connections with other youth with deployed parents.

Participants will only be allowed to attend one session to ensure as many youth as possible have an opportunity to attend Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge this summer.

A \$50 camp registration fee will be charged only when a camper is selected to attend. The fee is to reserve the camper's slot in their assigned session and is due by May 31. Refund of the camp registration fee will be given only if written cancellation is submitted at least two weeks prior to the start of camp.

Central bus pick-up points will provide transportation to all camps. Camp organizers stress that no air transportation or individualized transportation will be funded and families will be wholly responsible for getting their son or daughter to the central bus pick-up points.

Complete information and the application form for Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge are available online at www.mwr-europe.com. Applications will be accepted online only; the application deadline is midnight, May 4.

Further information on Army MWR in Europe is available at www.mwr-europe.com.

